In recent months public awareness of mounting environmental problems in the United States has been evidenced by the large number of newspaper and magazine articles on the subject, as well as by efforts of individual citizens and citizen groups to combat in particular the growing problems of air and water pollution. This increased public awareness is, of course, most welcome and much needed. Public concern, however, is not enough to overcome the problems—concern must be followed by action programs in both the public and private sectors of the nation's economy. For about four years the Commission, an interagency staff, and Commission advisory committees have been intensively working on a comprehensive planning program designed to provide specific, concrete recommendations for projects which would assist in protecting and restoring the environmental quality of the Fox River watershed. These recommendations are set forth in the recently completed comprehensive Fox River watershed plan. Not only does this plan provide a carefully coordinated set of specific recommendations for the protection and restoration of the overall quality of the environment within the watershed, but the plan also has quantified the dollar cost of such protection and restoration. As such, the plan provides the first quantitative measure of the costs of meeting the state-established water use objectives for the Fox River watershed, as well as the costs of protecting and enhancing other vital elements of the underlying and sustaining natural resource base.
The comprehensive Fox River watershed plan has been approved by the Fox River Watershed Committee, a committee consisting of 33 elected and appointed local public officials and interested citizens from throughout the watershed, and the Technical Advisory Committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Design, a committee consisting of 18 representatives of local, state, and federal agencies having responsibilities for natural resource conservation and management within the watershed, and has been recommended to the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission for adoption as an integral part of the evolving regional plan for southeastern Wisconsin. The comprehensive Fox River watershed plan is the second such plan prepared for a watershed in the Region, the first being the comprehensive plan for the Root River watershed, adopted by the Commission in 1966. The comprehensive watershed plans are designed to provide recommendations for the development of water-related community facilities, including integrated proposals for water pollution abatement; drainage and flood control; land and water use; and park and public open-space reservation, stressing the protection and preservation of the life-sustaining natural resource base.

The Fox River watershed is an interstate river basin having a total land and water area of 2,582 square miles, 942 square miles of which lie within Wisconsin and represent the area for which the comprehensive Fox River watershed plan was prepared (see Map 1). The watershed is the largest natural surface water drainage unit in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region, comprising 35 percent of the total regional area. Six counties and 64 local units of government share the responsibility for governing the Wisconsin portion of this watershed.

STUDY INITIATION AND ORGANIZATION

The Fox River watershed plan grew out of a recognized need to resolve the water resource-related problems of the watershed, particularly serious pollution and flooding problems, through areawide planning efforts designed to result in a comprehensive plan for the development of the watershed. In order to mount the required planning effort, the Commission, in January 1962, formed the Fox River Watershed Com-
After two years of preliminary study of the problems of the watershed, this Committee recommended, in a Prospectus published in October 1964, that the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission undertake a comprehensive watershed study of the watershed designed to provide the necessary area-wide plan. This study was subsequently approved and jointly financed by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the six counties in the Region that comprise portions of the Fox River watershed. The study itself was conducted jointly by the Commission staff; cooperating governmental agencies, including the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; the U. S. Department of Interior, Geological Survey; and the Wisconsin Conservation Commission (now the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources); and private consultants engaged by the Commission, including the Harza Engineering Company, Chicago, Illinois, a firm specializing in water resource engineering, and Alster & Associates, Inc., Madison, Wisconsin, a firm specializing in photogrammetric mapping and control survey engineering.

STUDY PLANNING REPORT

As noted in the Volume 9, No. 5, issue of this Newsletter published in October 1969, the Fox River watershed study findings and plan recommendations are set forth in a two-volume planning report. The first volume, SEWRPC Planning Report No. 12, A Comprehensive Plan for the Fox River Watershed, Volume 1, Inventory Findings and Forecasts, sets forth the basic concepts underlying the comprehensive watershed study and presents in summary form the factual findings of the extensive inventories conducted under the study. It also identifies and, to the extent possible, quantifies the developmental and environmental problems of the watershed and sets forth forecasts of economic activity, population growth, and resultant demands upon the land and natural resources of the watershed.

The second volume of the planning report, SEWRPC Planning Report No. 12, A Comprehensive Plan for the Fox River Watershed, Volume 2,
Alternative Plans and Recommended Plan, has now been completed and is currently being printed. This second volume presents the watershed development objectives and standards; alternative land use, natural resource protection, recreation-related resource development, flood control, water pollution abatement, and water supply plan elements; the recommended comprehensive watershed development plan; and plan implementation recommendations.

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

Upon completion of the second volume of the planning report and approval of its contents by the advisory committees, but prior to its printing and distribution, a series of 11 public meetings was held throughout the watershed. These meetings were designed to present the findings and recommendations of the Fox River watershed study to local public officials and concerned citizens for consideration and reaction. The 11 meetings, including seven informational meetings conducted by the county offices of the University of Wisconsin Extension and four formal public hearings conducted by the Fox River Watershed Committee, were held throughout the watershed on the following schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City Hall</td>
<td>January 19, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brookfield, Wisconsin</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington Junior High School</td>
<td>January 20, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington, Wisconsin</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village Hall</td>
<td>January 21, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Lake, Wisconsin</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waukesha County Courthouse</td>
<td>January 22, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waukesha, Wisconsin</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford High School</td>
<td>January 26, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford, Wisconsin</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Troy High School</td>
<td>January 27, 1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Troy, Wisconsin</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WATERSHED PLAN COMPLETED—Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School/Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walworth County Courthouse</td>
<td>February 16, 1970</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elkhorn, Wisconsin</td>
<td>February 17, 1970</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington Junior High School</td>
<td>February 18, 1970</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burlington, Wisconsin</td>
<td>February 19, 1970</td>
<td>7:30 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waukesha County Courthouse</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waukesha, Wisconsin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverview Elementary School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silver Lake, Wisconsin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Minutes were taken at the four formal public hearings and are on file in the Commission offices. Over 600 local public officials and interested citizens attended these public meetings. In general, the plan recommendations were well received. The stream and lake water pollution abatement elements of the plan generally received strong support from among those attending the meetings, with most of the questions and comments being directed at the cost and timing of implementation of these plan elements. The land use and natural resource protection plan elements were also generally supported by those attending, and although there was objection expressed to the preservation of environmental corridor lands through purchase, support was expressed for such preservation through zoning.

Some objections were registered to the recreational plan element and to that aspect of the flood control plan element involving floodplain evacuation. Interest at the various hearings centered in different elements of the overall plan, with those attending the Waukesha County hearing being most interested in the pollution abatement elements; those attending the Walworth County hearing, in the recreation elements; those attending the Racine County hearing, in the resource protection and agricultural drainage improvement elements; and those attending the Kenosha County hearing, in urban flood control elements.
ALTERNATIVE PLAN ELEMENTS

In the preparation of the comprehensive plan for the future development of the Fox River watershed, the interagency staff made a concerted effort to offer for public examination all physically feasible alternative plan elements which might satisfy one or more of the adopted watershed development objectives. Each of these alternative plan elements was evaluated in terms of engineering, economic, and legal feasibility and with respect to how well the alternative plan element satisfied the watershed development objectives. The alternative plan elements considered represent various combinations of land use patterns and water control facilities throughout the watershed.

The adopted regional land use plan was selected for use as the basic land use element in the watershed study. In adapting, refining, and detailing this land use plan for the watershed, three alternative natural resource protection and three alternative outdoor recreation plan elements were considered. Each of the three natural resource protection alternatives would seek to protect, preserve, and maintain the remaining primary environmental corridors of the watershed. The three alternatives differ only with respect to the amount of environmental corridor land recommended for public acquisition through the plan design year of 1990. Each of the three alternative outdoor recreation plan elements was designed to meet to varying degrees the forecast demand for outdoor recreation activities in the watershed, the three alternatives differing with respect to the amount of park land recommended to be acquired and developed by public agencies.

Alternative flood control plan elements explored included floodland zoning and acquisition for public park and parkway use, floodplain evacuation through removal of residences, levee and floodwall construction and channel improvements, reservoir construction, and lake level control facilities. Seven alternative stream water quality management plan elements were examined with respect to the abatement of stream water pollution from municipal sources. These seven included the provision of advanced waste treatment for removal of oxygen-demanding materials.
and nutrients; the diversion of sewage generated in the urbanizing upper Fox River watershed to the Milwaukee metropolitan sewage system, combined with advanced waste treatment for the lower watershed; the disposal of sewage effluent on land; tertiary waste treatment for removal of oxygen-demanding materials, together with chemical spraying of the watercourses to control weed and algae growth; secondary waste treatment with low-flow augmentation, or flushing and dilution, utilizing Lake Michigan water, along with chemical spraying of the watercourses; secondary waste treatment, together with chlorination for disinfection, which represents the current level of municipal waste treatment; and tertiary waste treatment, together with chlorination for disinfection.

With respect to the abatement of lake water pollution, several alternatives were considered singly or in combination, including weed harvesting; algae control; the institution of good soil and water conservation practices on agricultural lands tributary to lakes, including the construction of bench terraces with tile outlets on steep slopes to control nutrient contributions from agricultural runoff; and the installation of sanitary sewage systems to control nutrient contributions from urban land uses. With respect to water supply, the alternative plan elements considered included further development of the deep aquifer supply; further development of the shallow aquifer supply; and the development of surface water supplies, particularly through the construction of a large multi-purpose reservoir in the Vernon Marsh area of Waukesha County.

RECOMMENDED WATERSHED PLAN

Each of the foregoing alternative plan elements was evaluated individually and in various combinations, and a recommended comprehensive watershed plan was prepared. This watershed development plan, which is recommended for adoption as a guide to the physical development of the entire Fox River watershed, contains the following major proposals:

- Regulation of land use development over the entire watershed through local zoning in order to assure expansion of urban development into those areas of the watershed that can readily be served by public utility services. This recommended land use
pattern is shown on Map 2. This proposal includes the enactment of sound floodland, shoreland, and conservancy zoning regulations in order to protect and assist in preserving the environmental corridor in rural areas.

- The public acquisition of all of the primary environmental corridors in those areas of the watershed expected to be in urban use by 1990, totaling about 14,500 acres, or 11 percent of the total environmental corridor area in the watershed. These areas, as well as the other primary environmental corridor lands proposed for public acquisition, are shown on Map 3.

- Public acquisition of the remaining primary environmental corridor along the main stem of the Fox River from its headwater area in Waukesha County to the Illinois-Wisconsin State line. This area totaling about 7,400 acres, represents 6 percent of the total environmental corridor in the watershed.

- The continued public acquisition of the Vernon Marsh wildlife conservancy and temporary floodwater storage area in Waukesha County, totaling about 2,600 acres, or 2 percent of the total corridor area in the watershed.

- Public acquisition of a multi-purpose reservoir site on Sugar Creek in Walworth County, totaling about 3,400 acres, or 2 percent of the total corridor area of the watershed. The plan also proposes the construction of a multi-purpose recreation, flood control, and low-flow augmentation reservoir on the Sugar Creek site.

- Continued public acquisition of selected high-value wetland and woodland areas throughout the watershed, including the Kettle Moraine State Forest area and wildlife conservancy areas along the riverine portion of the Fox River watershed. Such areas total about 8,900 acres, or 7 percent of the total environmental corridor area of the watershed.
WHAT IS "ADVANCED WASTE TREATMENT"?

The comprehensive Fox River watershed plan recommends that all future major waste discharges in the watershed provide "advanced waste treatment." This recommended level of waste treatment goes beyond the level of treatment now being provided throughout the watershed and, indeed, the Region and the state. In order to explain in an adequate manner the nature of advanced waste treatment, it is necessary to understand the various sewage treatment processes which are in use today.

The above figure schematically illustrates the sequential steps in the sewage treatment process. Sewage treatment may be defined as any physical, biological, or chemical process to which sewage is subjected in order to remove or alter its objectionable constituents and thus render it less damaging to the receiving environment, usually a lake or a stream. Four degrees or levels of treatment are shown in the above figure, with each level providing a better quality of effluent that is eventually discharged into receiving waters. Only three of these levels of treatment are presently in common use, and most sewage treatment plants now operating in the Southeastern Wisconsin Region provide only secondary treatment.

In the first, or primary, level of treatment, metal screens remove large objects, such as sticks and rags, from the raw sewage. The sewage then passes into a grit chamber where coarse suspended materials, such as sand and gravel, settle to the bottom. From the grit chamber the sewage flows through a comminutor, which grinds any remaining large suspended solids, and then into a sedimentation tank where the velocity of flow is reduced so that the suspended particles sink to the bottom, forming a sludge blanket. Flooding solids, oils, and greases are removed through skimming. Up to this point the primary treatment process is essentially physical (mechanical) in nature. The sludge is pumped to a heated tank where it is reduced by anaerobic bacteria—that is, bacteria which can exist without free oxygen—to a stable residue. The sludge digestion process is essentially biological in nature. By itself this primary treatment removes only about 30 percent of oxygen-demanding organic matter in the raw sewage, the matter removed representing the coarse suspended solids in the sewage. Primary treatment removes little or none of the colloidal and dissolved matter in the sewage.

In secondary treatment most of the remaining oxygen-demanding organic matter is consumed by bacteria in the presence of oxygen. The effluent from the primary treatment facilities is further treated by such means as trickling filters or activated sludge tanks and additional sedimentation. The secondary treatment process is both physical and biological in nature. Secondary treatment removes up to 90 percent of the suspended matter and from 75 to 90 percent of the oxygen-demanding organic matter present in the raw sewage.

In tertiary treatment additional solids and oxygen-demanding material are removed through detention of the secondary effluent in oxidation or stabilization ponds and through filtration by either sand or mechanical filters. Tertiary treatment, which may be either physical or biological or both in nature, removes up to 99 percent of the suspended matter and from 95 to 97 percent of oxygen-demanding organic matter present in the raw sewage.

Secondary and tertiary treatment processes remove and stabilize the oxygen-demanding organic waste materials in sewage but do not normally remove at least more than about 40 percent of the total phosphorus and 40 percent of the total nitrogen in the raw sewage, materials that are essentially good fertilizers. In advanced waste treatment the effluent from either the secondary treatment or tertiary treatment facilities is further treated by essentially chemical processes to achieve the removal of the dissolved phosphorus and nitrogen compounds in the sewage that cause undesirable algae and weed growths in the receiving waters. The particular method of advanced waste treatment shown above is only one of several possible methods. The method shown includes chemical coagulation, sedimentation, charcoal filtration, and aeration. Advanced waste treatment may be expected to remove up to 90 percent of the nitrogen and 95 percent of the phosphorus in the raw sewage. An auxiliary chemical treatment, which should be used in combination with all four sewage treatment processes, is disinfection by chlorination.
Map 2
RECOMMENDED LAND USE BASE FOR THE FOX RIVER WATERSHED 1990

LEGEND
- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (0.5-7.2 PERSONS PER RESIDENTIAL ACRE)
- MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (7.3-22.8 PERSONS PER RESIDENTIAL ACRE)
- HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (22.9-59.2 PERSONS PER RESIDENTIAL ACRE)
- MAJOR RETAIL AND SERVICE
- MAJOR INDUSTRIAL
- PUBLIC AIRPORT
- WATER
- AGRICULTURAL
- PROPOSED FREEWAY
- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- EXISTING REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE
- PROPOSED REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE
Map 3
PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR LANDS IN THE FOX RIVER WATERSHED
RECOMMENDED TO BE ACQUIRED FOR PUBLIC PRESERVATION AND USE 1990

LEGEND
- URBAN PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- VERNON MARSH PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- SUGAR CREEK MULTIPLE PURPOSE RESERVOIR AREA
- HIGH-VALUE WETLANDS AND WOODLANDS
- FOX RIVER MAIN STEM PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- RURAL PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- FOX RIVER SCENIC DRIVE
• Public acquisition and initial development of approximately 17,700 acres of additional park and outdoor recreation land in order to meet the anticipated 1990 outdoor recreation demand within the watershed. Included in the above total are about 2,600 acres for the acquisition and development of four new regional parks in the watershed: Minooka Park, which has already been acquired and is under construction in Waukesha County; Sugar Creek Park, which is recommended to be a state park facility located adjacent to the proposed Sugar Creek multipurpose reservoir; a western Racine County park, located south of the Village of Rochester along the Fox River main stem; and the expansion of the existing Fox River Park in Kenosha County to regional park status. The outdoor recreation element of the recommended Fox River watershed plan is shown on Map 4.

• The construction of dikes and floodwalls in the Cities of Burlington and Waukesha to protect the flood-vulnerable land uses and assist in eliminating the high flood damage risk in these cities.

• Channel improvements in the headwater areas of Sugar and Honey Creeks in Walworth County to protect valuable agricultural areas and improve agricultural production through better drainage.

• The construction of levees along the lower reaches of Hoosier Creek in Racine County to protect flood-vulnerable agricultural areas and reduce flood damages, together with certain channel improvements.

• The gradual removal of 160 residences in the Silver Lake area of Kenosha County, all of which lie within the 10-year recurrence interval flood hazard line and the first floors of which are subject to frequent inundation.

• The provision of advanced waste treatment for removal of oxygen-demanding organic matter and nutrients, and disinfection through post-chlorination in all major municipal sewage treat-
Map 4
EXISTING AND PROPOSED
PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION
SITES IN THE FOX RIVER
WATERSHED
1990

LEGEND
- PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL CORRIDOR
- EXISTING REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE
- PROPOSED REGIONAL OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE
- HIGH-VALUE OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE
- OTHER OUTDOOR RECREATION SITE
ment plants within the watershed (see Map 5). In the upper watershed area, the plan recommends the construction of a single large sewage treatment plant to serve all of the urban areas, along with a system of trunk sewers to convey the wastes from the upper watershed communities to the new plant, proposed to be constructed south of the City of Waukesha. In the lower watershed, the plan recommends the provision of advanced waste treatment facilities at six existing individual sewage treatment plants, namely: the Villages of East Troy, Mukwonago, and Twin Lakes; the Cities of Burlington and Lake Geneva; and the Western Racine County Sewerage District, serving the Rochester-Waterford area.

- The provision of sanitary sewer service at eight major lakes within the watershed, namely: Browns, Camp and Center, Como, Eagle, Little Muskego, Pewaukee, Tichigan, and Wind Lakes (see Map 5). Such sewer service would be provided for Little Muskego Lake through an eventual connection with the Milwaukee metropolitan sewerage system, for Pewaukee Lake through the proposed upper Fox River watershed sewerage system, and for Browns Lake through the existing City of Burlington sewage treatment plant. New sewerage systems providing secondary waste treatment facilities would be established at the remaining five lakes.

- The institution of improved soil and water conservation practices, including the construction on steep agricultural land of bench terraces with tile outlets in the tributary drainage areas of 17 major lakes within the watershed, in order to control the nutrient input due to agricultural runoff.

- The provision of chemical control of nuisance algal blooms and the machine harvesting of nuisance aquatic weed growth as necessary at 19 major lakes in the watershed.
Map 5
RECOMMENDED PUBLIC SANITARY SEWERAGE SYSTEMS IN THE FOX RIVER WATERSHED 1990

LEGEND
- SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (ADVANCED)
- SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT (SECONDARY)
- TRUNK SANITARY SEWER
- SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA
- PLANNED SANITARY SEWER SERVICE AREA WITHIN THE FOX RIVER WATERSHED TO BE SERVED BY MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE COMMISSIONS
- The continued use of the shallow and deep aquifers for water supply according to a sound water management program involving proper well location and spacing.

COSTS OF PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Of great concern to the Commission advisory committees, the inter-agency staff, and to those attending the public hearings regarding the recommended Fox River watershed plan is the cost to the federal, state, and local governments concerned of implementing the plan recommendations. Each element in the plan was subjected to an analysis of costs, with certain of the plan elements subjected to rigorous benefit-cost analyses. The planning report contains a preliminary capital improvement program, with the necessary land acquisition and facility construction costs distributed over a 20-year plan implementation period.

The full capital investment cost of implementing the recommended comprehensive watershed plan is estimated at $120 million over the 20-year plan implementation period. Of this total cost, about $66 million, or 55 percent, is required for implementation of the recommended natural resource base protection and recreation-related land use plan elements, including acquisition of over 36,000 acres of primary environmental corridor land. About $30 million, or 25 percent, will be required to implement the recommended stream water quality management plan elements, including the provision of advanced waste treatment at all major municipal sewage treatment plants in the watershed and the construction of the necessary trunk sewer system in the upper watershed. Nearly $20 million, or 16 percent, will be required to implement the recommended lake water quality management plan elements, including the installation of sanitary sewerage systems at eight major lakes in the watershed and the undertaking of water quality management programs at many of the other major lakes in the watershed. Finally, about $5 million, or 4 percent, will be required to implement the flood control and drainage improvement plan elements.
The average annual capital cost of total plan implementation would approximate $6 million per year, or about $24 per capita, the per capita cost being based on a population of 250,000 persons, the approximate anticipated average resident population of the watershed between 1963 and 1990. A public financial resource analysis conducted as a part of the Fox River watershed study revealed that the foregoing costs of implementing the watershed plan are such as to be reasonably attainable through continuing the current public expenditure patterns for sanitary sewerage purposes and expanding somewhat the expenditures for park and natural resource protection purposes. Full utilization of all sources of financial assistance at the state and federal levels could serve to reduce the local plan implementation costs for most of the plan elements by 50 percent and, in some cases, by as much as 75 percent.

Although the costs of implementing the recommended plan will be high, the costs of not doing so will be higher. The local, state, and federal governments will expend funds during the coming years to provide for such public needs as park and recreational areas and sanitary sewerage systems. Expenditure of these funds in the absence of an agreed-upon comprehensive watershed plan would not serve to meet the watershed development objectives nor the state-established water use objectives and standards but could be expected instead to lead to a further deterioration in the overall quality of the environment within the watershed.

REPORT AVAILABILITY

SEWRPC Planning Report No. 12, A Comprehensive Plan for the Fox River Watershed, Volume 2, Alternative Plans and Recommended Plan, is now being printed and is expected to become available for distribution late this spring. Volume 1 of SEWRPC Planning Report No. 12, Inventory Findings and Forecasts, is now available from the Commission offices. Both volumes are priced at $10 inside the Southeastern Wisconsin Region and $15 outside the Region. Pursuant to Commission policy, all local units of government within the Fox River watershed will receive copies of each volume of this report.
"The present population of the human species is the latest episode in the destruction of planetary harmony. Although the planet's ability to receive unaided humans may not have been accumulating for years without significant evidence, the future of mankind on this planet depends upon the maintenance of a balanced harmony with nature. Isn't there always a reason to believe that the planet has a capacity to self-determine its own course and that the individuals and indeed whole species to die out?"

Therefore, the present generation of the human population finds itself in the situation where its survival may depend upon a change in the direction of the planetary harmony. Although many individuals, both human and non-human, are concerned about the well-being of their fellow species, the problem of how to live in harmony with others remains.

Although it is generally accepted that human beings are able to conduct not only their own environment, but that of their fellow species, as well, a position that can be taken is that no clear distinction exists as to what constitutes all living species. However, man, and in the historically unique position of being able to control not only his own environment, but that of his fellow species, is in a position to be responsible for the well-being of his environment. Although it is generally accepted that the ability to direct the environment is not unique to man, there is no related evidence that the ability to self-determine is found among lower forms.

The well-being of the human population, in turn, depends upon the long-term survival of the environment. Although the population may seem to have been growing at an alarming rate, the planet's ability to support human life remains.

Although it is generally accepted that the population growth is not a problem, it is clear that the future of mankind on this planet depends upon the maintenance of a balanced harmony with nature.